

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A releasable, sliding mount for connecting a component feeding system to an assembly machine in a repeatable manner, comprising:

a feeder platform attached to the assembly machine;

a docking channel operatively affixed to the feeder platform, said docking channel including a pair of parallel grooves therein;

a positioning member associated with the docking channel; and

a plurality of rollers affixed to the component feeding system, whereby upon insertion of the component feeding system into the docking channel, said rollers are received by said grooves within the docking channel.

2. (original) The releasable, sliding mount of claim 1, further comprising means for locking the component feeding system into a defined position, wherein the position is controlled by the positioning member.

3. (original) The releasable, sliding mount of claim 1, further comprising a safety stop for preventing the inadvertent removal of the component feeding system from the docking channel, wherein said safety stop is displaced so as to allow the component feeding system to be completely removed from the docking channel.

4. (original) The releasable, sliding mount of claim 1, wherein the docking channel comprises a base plate and two vertical members.

5. (original) The releasable, sliding mount of claim 4, wherein said vertical members are generally parallel to one another and have said grooves extending along a longitudinal axis, wherein said grooves are staggered and on opposite sides of said vertical member so as to enable the grooves on each side of the vertical member to receive roller alignment rails from adjacent component feeding systems.

6. (original) The releasable, sliding mount of claim 5, wherein said roller alignment rails move reciprocally along said grooves.

7. (original) The releasable, sliding mount of claim 1, wherein said positioning member comprises a bracket and a latch pin to control the inward position of the component feeding system in relation to said docking channel.

8. (original) The releasable, sliding mount of claim 7, wherein said positioning member further comprises at least one alignment pin for engaging said component feeding system, and where said alignment pin further positions said component feeding system.

9. (currently amended) The releasable sliding mount of claim 1, wherein said positioning device member further comprises a latching mechanism operably engaging said component feeding system, whereby said latching mechanism, when engaged, inhibits relative motion between the component feeding system and the docking channel.

10. (previously presented) A mounting device for connecting a plurality of component feeding systems to an assembly machine in a repeatable manner, comprising:

a feeder platform attached to the assembly machine;

a plurality of docking channels operatively affixed to the feeder platform, each of said plurality of docking channels being separated by a common vertical member, said common vertical member having longitudinal grooves extending along opposite sides thereof;

a positioning member associated with each of the docking channels;

a plurality of roller alignment rails affixed to each of the component feeding systems, wherein said roller alignment rails are received by said longitudinal grooves upon insertion of the component feeding systems into the docking channels.

11. (original) The mounting device of claim 10, further comprising means for locking the component feeding systems into positions defined by the respective positioning members.

12. (original) The mounting device of claim 10, further comprising a safety stop associated with each docking channel for preventing the inadvertent removal of the component feeding systems from the docking channels, wherein said safety stop is displaced so as to allow the component feeding systems to be completely removed from the docking channel.

13. (original) The mounting device of claim 10, wherein a plurality of types of component feeding systems may be interchangeably mounted to the assembly machine using the mounting device.

14. (original) The mounting device of claim 10, wherein said docking channel comprises a base plate and at least two vertical members associated therewith.

15. (original) The mounting device of claim 14, wherein said vertical members each have at least two longitudinal grooves therein and where said grooves are staggered on opposite sides of said vertical member.

16. (original) The mounting device of claim 10, wherein said roller alignment rails move reciprocally within said grooves.

17. (original) The mounting device of claim 10, wherein said positioning members comprise a bracket and a latch wherein said latch limits the inward position of the component feeding system in relation to said docking channel.

18. (original) The mounting device of claim 17, wherein said positioning members further comprise one or more alignment pins for engaging said component feeding systems, and where said alignment pins further position said component feeding systems.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)